

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 – 4. Cancelled.

5. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures comprising:
selecting an original performance, said original performance comprising an original performance voice signature;
recording a user impersonation of at least a portion of said original performance;
establishing a user impersonation voice signature;
electronically comparing said user impersonation voice signature to said original performance voice signature;
generating a graduated performance value representative of the similarities between said original voice signature and said user impersonation voice signature; and
basing an entertainment application upon use of said graduated performance value.

6. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 5, wherein said original performance comprises a spoken voice passage.

7. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 5, wherein said original performance comprises a song.

8. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 7, further comprising:
electronically comparing a user impersonation pitch with a original performance pitch to generate a pitch accuracy value;
generating said graduated performance value representative of said pitch accuracy value.

9. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 7, further comprising:

electronically comparing a user impersonation rhythm with a original performance rhythm to generate a rhythm accuracy value; and

generating said graduated performance value representative of said rhythm accuracy value.

10. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 5, wherein said original performance comprises an instrumental performance.

11. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 9, wherein said original performance voice signature includes characteristics taken from the group of inflection, embouchure, intonation, dynamics, accents, variations, technique and flourishes.

12. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 5, further comprising:

playing said original performance.

13. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 5, further comprising:

generating a display of judges, said display of judges communicating said graduated performance value to said user.

14. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 13, further comprising:

providing a critique from at least one of said judges upon selection by said user.

15. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 5, further comprising:

displaying a recording studio on a display while recording said user impersonation voice signature.

16. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 15, further comprising:

providing an instantaneous feedback while recording said user impersonation voice signature.

17. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 5, further comprising:

displaying said original voice signature and said user impersonation voice signature on a display in a waveform display.

18. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 5, further comprising:

communicating said user impersonation over a computer network to a remote controller; and

utilizing a logic on said remote controller to electronically compare said user impersonation voice signature to said original performance voice signature.

19. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 5, further comprising:

communicating said user impersonation over through a phone network to a remote controller; and

utilizing a logic on said remote controller to electronically compare said user impersonation voice signature to said original performance voice signature.

20. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 5, wherein said entertainment application comprises a contest between a plurality of users.

21. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 5, wherein said entertainment application comprises a game between a plurality of users.

22. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 5, further comprising:

storing a plurality of said original performances within a database; and
allowing said user to select said original performance from said database.

23. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 22, further comprising:

storing said database on a remote controller.

24. (Original) A method of comparing voice signatures as described in claim 22, further comprising:

storing said database on a local system.

25. (Original) An apparatus for comparing voice signatures comprising:
a database comprising a plurality of original performances, each of said original performances comprising an original performance voice signature;

a microphone for recording a user impersonation of at least a portion of one of said original performance; and

a controller comprising logic adapted to:

establish a user impersonation voice signature;

compare said user impersonation voice signature to said original performance voice signature; and

generate a graduated performance value representative of the similarities between said original voice signature and said user impersonation voice signature.

26. (Original) An apparatus for comparing voice signatures as described in claim 25, wherein said logic is further adapted to:

receive said user impersonation over phone lines.

27. (Original) An apparatus for comparing voice signatures as described in claim 25, wherein said controller comprises an entertainment game device.

28. (Original) An apparatus for comparing voice signatures as described in claim 27, wherein said database comprises a removable game element.

29. (Original) An apparatus for comparing voice signatures as described in claim 25, wherein said original performance comprises an instrumental voice.

30. (Original) An apparatus for comparing voice signatures as described in claim 29, wherein said logic is further adapted to:

generate music lessons, from a remote system, using said comparison.